

**ABSTRACT**

Disclosed are a method and system for removing scratches from a planar panel of translucent or transparent material, such as glass, without removal from its frame. A heat source supplying a controlled amount of heat is moved across the surface of the planar panel at a controlled velocity and at a controlled distance from the surface so as to progressively melt a thin surface layer at portions of the surface heated by the moving heat source. The melted material re-flows under surface tension to smooth scratches in the surface layer. Movement of the heat source is repeated over different portions of the surface until all scratched areas have been treated. The treated panels have a smooth surface with scratches removed, and have good optical and structural qualities.